

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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53

ACTION VOE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CU-04 /015 W

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R 130940Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3488

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS KUWAIT 3330

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, XF, XI, KU

SUBJECT: VISAS ARAB STUDENTS ON A-2 VISAS

REF: (A) STATE 181230

(B) KUWAIT 2377 (NOTAL)

(C) JIDDA 5493

1. FOLLOWING ANSWERS ARE KEYED TO QUESTIONS IN REF. (A):

A. KUWAIT ISSUED APPROXIMATELY 1000 A-2'S TO STUDENTS IN FY-75.

B. F-1 VISAS ISSUED TO 34 KUWAITIS IN FY-75

C. A-2 IS GRANTED TO APPLICANT HOLDING NOTE REQUESTING VISA FROM MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ALL OTHERS MUST FOLLOW NORMAL PROCEDURES FOR F-1.

D. POST KNOWS STUDENT A-2'S ISSUED EARLY AS 1962, AND BELIEVES ISSUED AT LEAST FROM MID-1950'S, BUT DOES NOT KNOW HOW OR EXACTLY WHEN PRACTICE BEGAN.

E. IN LAST NINE MONTHS POST HAS BECOME AWARE OF ABOUT TWO ADJUSTMENTS WHICH OCCURED DURING UNKNOWN PERIOD. ALTHOUGH UNCLASSIFIED

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THERE ARE ADJUSTMENTS -- AND POST BELIEVES THEM TO BE DUE TO

MARRIAGE TO AMCITS -- THEY ARE NOT SIGNIFICANT IN NUMBER AND OCCUR WITHOUT ANY ATTEMPT TO DEFRAUD OR BYPASS SYSTEM.

F. PRESENTLY GOK SENDS STUDENT TO WASHINGTON EMBASSY, WHERE THEY ARE RECEIVED BY STAFF OF TWO FSO'S AND 17 LOCALLY-HIRED EDUCATIONAL COUNSELORS. THEY ARE ALMOST ALL PLACED IN LANGUAGE TRAINING (SOME ARE EXTREMELY WEAK IN ENGLISH) AND TO SOME EXTENT ASSISTED IN OBTAINING ENTRANCES TO REGULAR COLLEGE. IF STUDENT WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE I-20 FOR VISA, SYSTEM WOULD HAVE TO BE CHANGED SO STUDENTS WOULD HAVE I-20 FROM AT LEAST LANGUAGE SCHOOL BEFORE LEAVING KUWAIT. SUCH A CHANGE IN PROCEDURES WOULD TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME IN KUWAIT AND IS LIKELY TO MAKE GOVERNMENT QUESTION US ATTITUDE TOWARD KUWAIT. KUWAIT AGREES WITH GIST OF JIDDA'S PARA F, THAT WE WILL HAVE TROUBLESOME SITUATION, ALTHOUGH US RELATIONS WITH KUWAIT NOT IDENTICAL TO THOSE WITH SAUDI ARABIA. SUGGEST ISSUANCE OF A-2'S BE STRICTLY LIMITED TO ONLY THOSE STUDENTS WHOM GOVERNMENT WILL CERTIFY AS BEING LEGALLY OBLIGATED TO WORK FOR GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING TERMINATION OF STUDIES. WE ALSO FEEL THAT IF THERE IS A CHANGE MADE WHICH WILL AFFECT THE KUWAITI BUREAUCRACY, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT SUFFICIENT LEAD TIME BE GIVEN FOR CHANGES TO BE MADE SMOOTHLY AND WITHOUT UNDUE STRAIN ON KUWAITI-US RELATIONS. SUGGEST FOUR SIX MONTHS.

G. CONOFF DOES NOT INTERVIEW STUDENT A-2 APPLICANT UNLESS POTENTIAL PROBLEM IS DETECTED, NOR DOES HE REQUIRE I-20. DETERMINATION OF ADEQUACY OF SCHOLASTIC PREPARATION IS LEFT TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, AND SOURCE OF FUNDS IS ALWAYS GOK. INTENTION TO DEPART U.S. IS NEVER A PROBLEM WITH KUWAITIS, WHO, BECAUSE OF PRIVILEGED POSITION IN COUNTRY, ARE PROBABLY AS GOOD VISA RISKS AS BRITISH, FRENCH OR GERMANS.

2. POST HAS NOTICED REF A APPARENTLY INADVERTENTLY NOT SENT TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA.
STOLTZFUS

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